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Phone: +964-770-443-0048
BaghdadPressOffice@state.gov

**American Ambassador Attends Inauguration of U.S.-Funded
Al-Qudas Power Plant Expansion Project**

U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Christopher R. Hill joined Minister of Electricity Dr. Karim Wahid to officially mark the completion of the Al-Qudas Power Plant expansion project in Baghdad on May 7, 2009. The Al-Qudas project provides two additional combustion turbines that are now fully operational and producing an additional 200 megawatts of power to the Iraqi power grid. The project is the result of a partnership between the Iraq Ministry of Electricity, the U.S. Embassy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a joint private venture between Iraqi companies URUK Engineering Services and Baghdad Company for Gas Turbines Ltd.

“This electricity project is a model of what can be achieved through partnership between the United States and Iraq. It also exemplifies how that partnership is directly improving the quality of life for Iraqis,” said Ambassador Hill. He praised the teams of Iraqi and American engineers, technicians and crew who worked together on the design, construction and operation of the expanded facility.

The Al-Qudas project is the largest power plant generation project in scope and dollar amount ever undertaken in Iraq by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It consists of the installation of two combustion turbines, each capable of producing over 100 megawatts of power. Construction began in 2006 and was completed in 2009. The U.S. government provided \$176 million for the project. Oversight responsibility was shared by the U.S Embassy Iraq Transition Assistance Office and the Iraq Ministry of Electricity, which operates the plant. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division provided construction consultation.

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